

outflow of the liquid and of the products of washing and to suspend introduction of the washing liquid into the external auditory meatus as soon as there arises (or could arise) an anomalous situation that is (at least potentially) dangerous.

The aforesaid risk may arise also in the case of washing carried out by others if the person performing the washing operation fails to detect in time (for any reason) a situation that is (at least potentially) dangerous and/or fails to react with due promptness.

This constitutes a serious drawback of known washing devices, which limits (or may limit) their use, in particular for self-washing of the external auditory meatus.

The washing device that forms the subject of the present invention comprises means designed to prevent occurrence of the aforesaid overpressure, which render the device free from the serious drawbacks and risks of the known washing devices.

Summary of the invention

The subject of the present invention is a device for washing the external auditory meatus, comprising an inlet channel for the washing liquid and a discharge channel which connects the end portion of the inlet channel with the outside environment, in which the discharge channel is designed to discharge the washing liquid outside if a further channel, designed to discharge the liquid and the products of washing outside, is at least partially obstructed by the products of washing.

The further channel may consist of the external auditory meatus, of an aural speculum in which the washing device is inserted, or of an outlet channel made in the body of the washing device.

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CLAIMS

- 1) A device for washing the external auditory meatus comprising at least one inlet channel (6) for the washing liquid (13), characterized in that it comprises in addition at least one discharge channel (8) which connects the end portion (7) of the at least one inlet channel (6) with the outside environment, said at least one discharge channel (8) being designed to discharge the washing liquid (13) outside if a further channel (9), designed to discharge the liquid (13) and the products of washing (14) outside, is at least partially obstructed by the products of washing (14).
- 2) A device according to Claim 1, characterized in that the further channel (9) consists of an outlet channel made in the body of the washing device (10).
- 3) A device according to Claim 1 inserted in an aural speculum, characterized in that said further channel (9) consists of the portion of the aural speculum not occupied by the washing device (10).
- 4) A device according to Claim 1, characterized in that the further channel (9) consists of the external auditory meatus (2).
- 5) A device according to Claim 1, characterized in that it comprises an inlet channel (6) and a discharge channel (8).
- 6) A device according to Claim 5, characterized in that the inlet channel (6) is separated from the discharge channel (8) by a septum (16), having a length shorter than that of the washing device (10), which delimits in addition the end portion (7) of the inlet channel (6).
- 7) A device according to Claim 6, characterized in that the section of the end portion (7) of the inlet channel (6) is greater than that of the initial portion of the

inlet channel (6)

8) A device according to Claim 7, characterized in that the section of the end portion (7) of the inlet channel (6) is not smaller than the section of the initial portion of the inlet channel (6) increased by the section of the discharge channel (8).

9) A device according to Claim 5, characterized in that the section of the discharge channel (8) is not smaller than that of the initial portion of the inlet channel (6).

10) A device according to Claim 5, characterized in that the inlet channel (6) and the discharge channel (8) are set one of the other .

11) A device according to Claim 5, characterized in that the inlet channel (6) and the discharge channel (8) are set alongside one another.

12) A device according to Claim 5, characterized in that the inlet channel (6) and the discharge channel (8) are parallel to one another.

13) A device according to Claim 5, characterized in that the end portion of the discharge channel (8) engages laterally in the body of the washing device (10), from which it projects.

14) A device according to Claim 13, characterized in that the end portion of the discharge channel (8) that protrudes from the body of the washing device (10) constitutes the grip of the a device itself.

15) A device according to Claim 13, characterized in that the end portion of the discharge channel (8) projecting from the body of the washing device (10) is connected to means designed to dispose of the washing liquid (13) that flows out of the discharge channel (8).

16) A device according to Claim 6, characterized in that at the exit from the end portion (7) of the inlet channel (6) there are present means (17) designed to deflect towards the wall (4) of the external auditory meatus (2) the jet of liquid (13) coming out of the washing device (10).

5 17) A device according to Claim 16, characterized in that said means (17) are in addition designed to direct and/or widen and/or flatten the jet of liquid (13) coming out of the washing device (10).

18) A device according to Claim 16, characterized in that the exit from the end portion (7) of the inlet channel (6) has an elliptical or flattened shape.

10 19) A device according to Claim 1, characterized in that it is used as means for inspection of the external auditory meatus (2) and of the tympanic membrane (3) in a device for self-viewing of the external auditory meatus (2) and of the tympanic membrane (3).

20) A device according to Claim 1, characterized in that it is associated to means
15 (18, 20, 21) designed to supply the washing liquid (13).